



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **Teruhiko IMOTO et al.**

Serial No.: **09/701,512**

Filed: **November 30, 2000**

Group Art Unit: **1745**

Examiner: **J. Mercado**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: **5196**

For. **HYDROGEN ABSORBING ALLOY FOR ALKALINE STORAGE BATTERY AND METHOD OF PRODUCING THE SAME, AND HYDROGEN ABSORBING ALLOY ELECTRODE FOR ALKALINE STORAGE BATTERY AND METHOD OF PRODUCING THE SAME**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: **June 24, 2003**

Sir:

This is a Preliminary Amendment for the above-captioned patent application. Prior to consideration, please amend the above-captioned patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 2 as follows:

2. (Twice amended) A method of producing a hydrogen absorbing alloy for an alkaline storage battery, characterized in that

9 a first step of obtaining particles of a hydrogen absorbing alloy having a crystal structure of a CaCu_2 type and represented by a composition formula $\text{MmNi}_x\text{Co}_y\text{Mn}_z\text{M}_{1-z}$ (in the formula, M is at least one element selected from aluminum and copper, x is a composition ratio of nickel and satisfies $3.0 \leq x \leq 5.2$, y is a composition ratio of cobalt and satisfies $0 \leq y \leq 1.2$, and z is a composition ratio of manganese and satisfies $0.1 \leq z \leq 0.9$,